

Declaration of Principles Unanimously Adopted by the Annual Convention of the United Farmers of Alberta January 23rd, 1925

Whereas, the 1919 U. F. A. Convention decided officially to go into political action, and passed a resolution authorizing the U. F. A. Locals of each constituency to use the U. F. A. organization machinery for the purpose of nominating and electing a U. F. A. candidate in that district, and,

Whereas, there have arisen misunderstandings and differences of opinion, and different interpretations in regard to the terms of that resolution, especially regarding the following points, viz.:

1. Whom the elected candidate represents in his official capacity.

2. On what basis he is supposed to co-operate with other U. F. A. members, and on what basis all U. F. A. members are supposed to co-operate, in the interest of good legislation, with other political parties, groups or individuals.

3. In regard to "Constituency Autonomy", just how far this autonomy extends, and where it ceases. Now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, that this Convention, speaking as the supreme U. F. A. authority, officially declares:

1. That each elected member who has been nominated by the U. F. A. organization in any constituency, shall be known only as a U. F. A. representative, and shall be expected to attach himself to no other legislative group or party, and further, that each U. F. A. member is responsible directly to his own U. F. A. constituency organization and that organization is responsible to the U. F. A. organization as a whole.

2. That each candidate so elected shall be expected to co-operate as an individual with all other U. F. A. members, thereby forming and organizing a Parliamentary group unit; and that this U. F. A. group unit shall be expected to co-operate as such with other Parliamentary parties, groups, or individual members, when practicable to do so in the interests of desirable legislation.

3. That each constituency shall have the fullest autonomy in nominating and electing a candidate, as outlined in the two above clauses, but this Convention specifically declares that no constituency shall have the right to use the U. F. A. organization in that constituency for the purpose of nominating and electing a candidate on any other understanding than that outlined above, in clauses one and two of this resolution. And, be it further,

4. Resolved, that nothing in the above resolution shall be so construed as to prevent the U. F. A. Parliamentary group from acting with, and inviting into their group councils, individual Parliamentary members, especially those elected by other farmers' organizations, similar to the U. F. A., when a majority of the said U. F. A. group decide that it is expedient and advisable to do so. And be it further,

5. Resolved, that when a bona fide farm organization, such as the U. F. A., from another Province, elects a group of legislative members, and these members organize themselves into a legislative group unit representative of that organization, it is the desire of this Convention that our U. F. A. legislative group should co-operate with such a legislative group or groups in the organization of a larger agricultural group containing all such Provincial groups, or as many as will so organize. And be it further,

6. Resolved, that the principles and policies, as declared from time to time by the U. F. A. Conventions, broadly interpreted, shall be the general guiding influence of the U. F. A. members and the U. F. A. legislative group, and, that with these principles in mind, they are expected to use their best judgment in dealing, in a practical way, with all matters of legislation, in the interest of industry as a whole, and further, that the U. F. A. members and the U. F. A. legislative group shall not be considered as in any way bound by any declaration of principles, or any platform coming from any other source.

7. Be it further resolved, that when a special service is required that calls for special training in order to render that service efficiently, the nominations for a constituency need not necessarily be limited to U. F. A. members, nor even to farmers. The object should be to select a candidate who will be loyal to the U. F. A. and capable of giving efficient service.

8. Resolved, that while the constituency organization is the unit through which the political machinery is operated, this unit does not exist for that purpose only, but for the purpose of carrying on all U. F. A. activities of that constituency, therefore, we believe that it is misleading to call them Political Associations, and we advise that all U. F. A. units of our organization be called U. F. A. units only.

